

DANNY SCHMIDT

Named to the Chicago Tribune's "*50 Most Significant Songwriters in the Last 50 Years*," Austin, TX-based singer/songwriter **Danny Schmidt** has amassed a cult following for his poetic, poignant lyrics. With a craftsmanship and emotional depth drawing comparisons to Leonard Cohen and Townes Van Zandt, and with fantastical narratives reminiscent of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, **Schmidt** is considered a preeminent writer. Sing Out Magazine proclaimed that: "**Schmidt is a force of nature: a blue moon, a hundred-year flood, an avalanche of a singer-songwriter. His songs are a flood of poetry, mythology, folk wisdom, and surprise. He is perhaps the best new songwriter we've heard in the last 15 years.**"

Performing solo most often, armed with just his voice, his acoustic guitar, and his acute commentary, **Schmidt's** an authentic timeless troubadour, one man sharing his truth in the form of songs, in unadorned and intimate fashion. The understated effect can be powerful. As songwriter Jeffrey Foucault put it: "*Everything about the man is gentle, except for his capacity for insight, which is crushing.*"

"Danny Schmidt is far-ranging, wise, and life-affirmingly poetic."

- Anais Mitchell

After garnering unanimous critical praise for his self-released *Parables & Primes* album in 2005, **Schmidt's** follow up release, *Little Grey Sheep* in 2007 began a streak of albums that topped the Folk Radio Charts internationally. And on the heels of being crowned with one of the prestigious Kerrville New Folk awards in 2007, **Schmidt** won the notice of venerable Americana roots label, Red House Records, who began releasing his albums in 2009, alongside such notable artists as Greg Brown, Eliza Gilkyson, and John Gorka, thus exposing his music to a broader audience.

Schmidt released three albums on Red House Records, including the critically acclaimed debut *Instead The Forest Rose To Sing* in 2009, the spare and intimate *Man Of Many Moons* in 2011, and culminating with the amorous duo album *For Keeps* with his partner, Carrie Elkin, in 2014. **Schmidt** returned to self-releasing his own music in 2016 with the album *Owls*, a mystical collection of ethereal allegories. *Standard Deviation* in 2019 was **Schmidt's** ninth solo record and tenth album total.

Schmidt's relationship with the hit podcast *Welcome To Night Vale* began when his song *This Too Shall Pass* was used in one of their first episodes, and immediately struck a chord with the podcast's audience. **Schmidt** has subsequently toured with the podcast for many of their live shows as the special musical guest.

In 2020, **Schmidt** began releasing a series of singles written and recorded at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, as a sort of journal covering those tumultuous times. These topical, yet vulnerable and personal tunes ended up topping the Folk Radio Charts literally days after they were written, three subsequent songs, three months in a row. Together, they served to chronicle those unprecedented times in artistic and poetic fashion.

Family life for **Schmidt** interweaves with his musical life. His wife Carrie Elkin is herself an acclaimed singer/songwriter, and the two often tour together, sharing songs back and forth, and singing harmonies on each other's work. In 2016 they celebrated the birth of their daughter, Maizy, who is often a fixture at their duo shows.

<https://dannyschmidt.com/index2.html>



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